

supposedly nonpartisan, but we are a political body and politics is always going to be the predominant factor. Politics is based on power. In the Legislature, power translates into votes, or votes translate into power. The ag interests have no power because the ag interests lack understanding. You need to read some of Machiavelli so that you can look at the world in which you function more realistically than you do now. I know that there are rural senators who feel that they have friends among the urban senators. They will eat with you. They will support a bill of yours every now and then. But when it comes to the crucial issue, you lose, you lose, you lose yet again. What Senator Schrock brought was a good amendment. Now what we are going to see happen at some point is a raising of the valuation on ag land legislatively, and why shouldn't they? There's no price to pay. You all can't stick together to do anything. People often ridicule farmers by saying if you have five farmers in a community you will have ten farm organizations. What happened just a few minutes ago seems to exemplify that. That which is in the best interest of those you profess to represent were thrown by the board. Something Senator Warner stated earlier is not entirely true. Senator Schrock's amendment, which is before us now, by the way, that amendment does not say that the valuation must be 80 percent. It cannot be more than 80 percent.

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So it can be reduced. If the level is reduced for every other kind of property, it would have to be reduced for ag property because the stats...the amendment does not say that ag land shall be valued at 80 percent. It says no more than 80 percent. So I think if you were calling yourself valuing property in a way that is uniform, ag land would have to be included in that valuation because that valuation, based on Senator Schrock's amendment, can be lowered from 80 percent. So I think there has been a statement which was not completely accurate. I am going to support Senator Schrock's amendment because we will vote on it again, and I am going to ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote...

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because I want the record to be crystal-clear.